

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 now stand in the application, new claims 13 and 14 having been added. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of patentable subject matter in claims 4-6 and 8-11, but respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the only rejection, claims 1-3, 7 and 12 are rejected for anticipation by Petz et al (US 2002/0097087). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the invention, there are a plurality of N active components each coupled to a load through a respective susceptance compensator and then a circuit for combining the active component outputs and adapting their conductances. In one embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, each susceptance compensator is a series connection of two line sections 5 and 6 and a capacitor 7 between the active component and a combining circuit, with an additional line section connected between the junction 9 of a line section 5 and capacitor 7 on the one hand, and a first terminal of a capacitor 10 of fixed capacitance connected by its second terminal to ground, with the capacitor 10 being biased by a bias voltage applied to its first terminal.

The combining circuit according to claim 1 is made up of M levels, with a first level connected to the susceptance compensators, the Mth level connected to the load, and the number of line sections of each level decreases as the number of levels increases.

Petz et al shows a plurality of active components 21 with each having a standard drain bias impedance 24 connected to its output and controlled by a control circuit 6 to selectively activate the respective amplifiers 21. The examiner refers to the impedances 24 as the claimed

susceptance compensators, but there is no evidence in Petz that the impedances are used to compensate susceptance. More importantly, the combiner circuit in Petz et al is N quarter wave transformers 51 feeding a variable transformer 52 whose function is to maintain a constant drain load impedance on the amplifiers regardless of how many amplifiers are activated. Petz et al describes that the transformers 51 could be strip lines, in which case the combiner of Petz et al would satisfy the requirement of having a first level of N line sections connected to the respective “compensators” (ignoring for purposes of this discussion the issue of whether or not the impedances 24 will compensate susceptance). Petz et al also shows that the Mth level has fewer line sections than the first level and is connected to the load.

However, the line sections in Petz are quarter wave transformers. The penultimate paragraph of claim 1 requires that every level after the first level “includes a particular number of line sections of equal electrical length that is an integer multiple of $\lambda/2$.” Note the Level 2 and Level M lines in Fig. 3. In Fig. 5, the line sections are $\lambda/4$ line sections, but they are provided in pairs to form effective $\lambda/2$ line sections as described at lines 17-20 of page 6.

For the above reasons, Petz et al cannot anticipate claim 1, nor any of its dependent claims.

Claims 13 and 14 have been added to clarify values of M, to the extent not already required by claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/566,397

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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